Punishment for non-payment of Post Retirement Dues by M/s. Jessop

977. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1016 given on 2nd December, 1996 and state:

(a) non-payment of gratuity, being a punishable offence as stated in the above reply, the agency/individual to be punished in the case of M/s. Jessop;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to observation of BIFR Bench in this regard in the hearing of M/s. Jessop held on 26th February, 1996;

(c) whether Bench had stated that move of the Government to link gratuity payment to the revival package did not flow from any direction given by the Bench;

(d) whether the bench had expected Department of Heavy Industry to take a humanitarian view; and

(e) the time bound step taken by the Government to clear the dues in view of (c) and (d) above?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The matter is being examined in consultation with concerned departments.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Department of Heavy Industry is taking appropriation action. It will be difficult to specify a time schedule.

देश में रोजगार कार्यालयों में पंजीकृत बेरोजगार व्यक्ति

978. **प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 1 जनवरी, 1995, 1 जनवरी, 1996 और 1 जनवरी, 1997 तक रोजगार कार्यालयों में कितने बेरोजगारों के नाम दर्ज थे;

(ख) इन तीन वर्षों के दौरान इन कार्यालयों के माध्यम से कितने व्यक्तियों, महिलाओं व पुरुषों, को रोजगार मिला; और

(ग) नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में बेरोजगारी की समस्या को दूर करने के लिए क्या योजना बनाई गई है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम॰ अरुणाचलम): (क) 31.12.1994, 31.12.1995 तथा 31.12.1996 की स्थिति के अनुसार रोजगार कार्यालयों के चालू रजिस्टर पर, रोजगार चाहने वालों की संख्या, यह आवश्यक नहीं कि सभी बेरोजगार हों, क्रमश: 366.92, 367.42 तथा 374.30 लाख थी।

(ख) प्रत्येक वर्ष 1994-96 की अवधि के दौरान रोजगार कार्यालयों द्वारा नियोजितों की संख्या निम्नानुसार थी:-

(हजार में)

वर्ष	नियोजितों की संख्या	
	पुरुष	महिलायें
1994	162.8	42.1
1995	171.3	43.6
1996	182.9	50.1

(ग) अल्प रोजगार की उच्च दर को मानते हुए निर्धनों के लिये रोजगार के अवसरों में वृद्धि की आवश्यकता है। इस संबंध में, नौवीं योजना में राष्ट्रीय रोजगार आश्वासन योजना कार्यान्वित करनी होगी।

नवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में कृषि एवं ग्रामीण विकास को प्राथमिकता दिया जाना परिकल्पित है जिससे पर्याप्त उत्पादक रोजगार सृजन किया जा सके तथा गरीबी उन्मूलन किया जा सके। उत्पादक रोजगार राज्य की नीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू है जिसमें समानता के साथ विकास प्राप्त करने पर बल दिया गया है। उच्च बेरोजगारी तथा अल्प रोजगार दर वाले लक्षणों से युक्त क्षेत्रों में श्रम गहन क्षेत्रों, उप-क्षेत्रों तथा प्रौद्योगिकियों पर ध्यान केन्द्रित होने से विकास प्रक्रिया में स्वत: ही उच्च उत्पादक रोजगार सृजित होगा।

Meeting of State Labour Ministers to implement the S.C. Order on Child Labour

979. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a meeting of State Labour Ministers, Secretaries, Commissioners and the Planning Commission, ILO and the different State Government sought allocation of adequate

funds to implement the orders of the Supreme Court for banning employment of children in hazardous industries and mines, as per Article 24 of the Constitution of India;

(b) the precise demands made by different State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the Government's response thereto, indicating the number of child labour to be rehabilitated in each State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) In the State Labour Ministers conference held on 22.1.97, there was a general demand from all the states for financial assistance from the Central Government for giving effect to the judgement of the Supreme Court.

(c) The Central Government is already meeting full expenditure on the 76 National Child Labour Projects presently functioning in different States covering about 1.04 lakh children. While primarily it is the responsibility of the State Governments to provide necessary funds for taking up of activities in compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court, the Central Government is considering if some funds could be released at the district level for conduct of survey. The number of working children to be rehabilitated would depend on the result of the survey which is required to be completed by 10th June, 1997.

Proposal to Recast the pattern of investment of PF money

980. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to recast the pattern of investment of Provident Fund money to ensure a higher yield for PF subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Board of Trustees is opposed to investing the Provident Fund money in the private sector; and

(d) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) A proposal for revision of the pattern of investment of the Provident Fund/Pension Fund is under consideration of the Government.

Special Reserve Fund (SRF) for payment of PF benefits

981. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Reserve Fund (SRF) was set up under EPF scheme for payment of PF benefits in respect of the employees employed in defaulting establishments;

(b) whether this fund has been utilised for payment of employees' and employers' share in case defaulting PSUs like JESSOP, MANC, NTC etc. registered with BIFR; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) A special Reserve Fund (SRF) has been created by the EPF Organisation so as to ensure disbursement of employees' share of PF deducted but not paid by the Unexempted Establishments to the Fund. The provisions have been further liberalised and now SRF is also utilised for payment of employees' as well as employers' share of contributions to the outgoing members of the unexempted establishments which are under liquidation or closed continuously for more than five years. The employees of NTC mills are entitled to payment of PF from the SRF as per the conditions prescribed under the scheme. M/s JESSOP & MANC are exempted establishments and as such their employees are not eligible for payment of PF from the SRF.

Representation for reforming labour laws

982. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations for reforming labour laws in our country;

(b) if so, the general nature of the demand for reform made by the trade and industry;

(c) the Government's response to it; and

(d) by when reforms are likely to be implemented?